



COLORADO
PHARMACISTS
SOCIETY

PROPOSALS TO FURTHER ADDRESS OPIOID MISUSE IN COLORADO

REGULATION OF PHARMACY TECHNICIANS

REGULATION OF PHARMACY TECHNICIANS

- Pharmacy technicians assist pharmacists in medication-related tasks, such as compounding medications and processing prescriptions
- Colorado is one of only four states in the US to not regulate pharmacy technicians
- In a study evaluating 811 drug diversion cases in 9 states, pharmacy technicians represent 71% of those cases, the vast majority being controlled substances*
 - In 92% of those cases, the technicians resold the diverted medications for personal gain

*Draine JA, Anderson DC, Anderson TS. Description and comparison of medication diversion in pharmacies by pharmacists, interns, and pharmacy technicians. JAPhA 2018; 58: 275-280.

REGULATION OF PHARMACY TECHNICIANS

- The Colorado Pharmacists Society (CPS) submitted a sunrise application to DORA to regulate pharmacy technicians in our state
- That application is pending review with an analyst recommendation expected by October, 2018
- CPS plans to work with RxPlus and the Colorado Retail Council to develop legislation that is not overly burdensome, but still regulates technicians in our state
- The case for regulating technicians would be made stronger through endorsement by the Opioid Taskforce

E-PRESCRIBING

E-PRESCRIBING TO REDUCE PRESCRIPTION FORGERIES

A comment from a CPS Board member, a regional pharmacy manager in a large retail chain:

“Forgeries for CII’s continue and those for CIII-V are increasing. These take time for the pharmacist to solve that would be better spent on patient care activities. Our pharmacists report having to assume everything is a forgery and work back from there. This puts patients with legitimate prescriptions in line with those forging and misusing opioids.”

E-PRESCRIBING TRENDS

- Beginning January 1, 2020, Walmart will only accept E-prescriptions for controlled substances (Press release, May 21, 2018)
- Eleven states (NY, ME, CT, AZ, NC, RI, IA, IN, MA, OK and VA) have passed legislation mandating electronic prescribing for controlled substances
- In 2019, one of the nation's largest wholesalers, McKesson Corporation, will no longer sell opioids to customers who cannot accept e-prescriptions for controlled substances (Press release, March 29, 2018)
- S. 2460: Every Prescription Conveyed Securely Act; introduced by Senator Michael Bennet to amend the Social Security Act to require e-prescribing for coverage under Medicare part D for all controlled substances (introduced February 2018)